

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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SALT

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VIENNA AND GENEVA FOR MBFR AND CSCE

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. SATURDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGED U.S. TO SUPPLY  
SAUDIS WITH ARMS AND FACTORIES; SUNDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGED  
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NIXON IN PARIS TAKES UNITY PLEA DIRECTLY TO EUROPEANS;

MONDAY PAPERS FEATURE NIXON RETURNS PLEASED WITH TALKS WITH LEADERS; WASHPOST FRONTPAGES MOSCOW HITS U.S. ON SALT; BALTSUN FRONTPAGES SOVIET PLAN FOR AUSTRIAN INVASION. COMMENT ON SALT AND OTHER SUBJECTS.

1A. SATURDAY NYTIMES INSIDE HAD GWERTZMAN WASHINGTON, WATERGATE FOUND TO AFFECT SOVIET; WASHSTAR REPORTED ELLSWORTH LIKELY CHOICE FOR ISA. MONDAY NYTIMES HAS PRAVDA ASSAILS U.S. POSITION ON ARMS; BALTSUN HAS MOSCOW AP, PRAVDA NOTES ARMS UNDERSTANDING.

2. WATERGATE. SATURDAY NYTIMES GWERTZMAN REPORTED SONNENFELDT ON TODAY SHOW SAID SOVIET LEADERS APPEARED UNCERTAIN OF HOW FAR NIXON ADMINISTRATION CAN MANEUVER ON CERTAIN SOVIET-AMERICAN PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF WASHINGTON'S GREAT PREOCCUPATION WITH WATERGATE, ADDING THAT SOVIET UNION GENERALLY SUPPORTED IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH U.S. BUT

ON SOME ISSUES, SUCH AS TRADE, THEY ARE CONCERNED PERHAPS ABOUT HOW FAR WE ARE ABLE TO GO AT PRESENT. SONNENFELDT, WHO ACCOMPANIED KISSINGER TO MOSCOW, SAID THAT MISSION ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL OF WHAT IT SET OUT TO DO, ADDING THAT IT IDENTIFIED NOT ONLY THOSE ISSUES ON WHICH FURTHER AGREEMENTS COULD BE REACHED BY TIME NIXON VISIT MOSCOW, BUT ALSO THOSE ISSUES WHERE THERE STILL REMAIN SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES OF VIEW AND OPINION. IN CASE OF SALT, SONNENFELDT SAID IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE TO NARROW THESE DIFFERENCES SUFFICIENTLY TO ACHIEVE A MEANINGFUL AND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT THIS YEAR. WATERGATE AS SUCH WAS NOT BROUGHT UP, SAID SONNENFELDT, BUT SOVIETS ARE CONSCIOUS SOME LEGISLATION THEY ARE INTERESTED IN HAS RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES IN CONGRESS, AND SONNENFELDT THOUGHT THEY HAVE SOME QUESTIONS IN THEIR OWN MINDS HOW MUCH WE ARE ABLE TO MOVE DURING PREOCCUPATION WITH WATERGATE.

3. SALT. MONDAY NYTIMES INSIDE HEDRICK SMITH MOSCOW REPORTS PRAVDA CHARGED TODAY DOD WAS ENGAGED IN PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AND ARMS IMPROVEMENTS AIMED AT RESTORING AMERICAN NUCLEAR SUPERIORITY--CONTRARY TO SPIRIT OF SOVIET-UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICAN AGREEMENTS, ADDING ITS AUTHORITATIVE COMMENTARY WAS FIRST EXTENSIVE ARTICLE ON ARMS NEGOTIATIONS SINCE KISSINGER GAVE THE KREMLIN PROPOSALS FOR LEVELLING OFF DEPLOYMENT OF MIRVS AT PRESENT LEVELS, WHICH WOULD GIVE U.S. SOME ADVANTAGES. SMITH SAYS CRITICISM WAS NOMINALLY DIRECTED AT SCHLESINGER BUT ARGUMENT ALSO APPEARED TO PROVIDE RATIONALE FOR MOSCOW'S WARY REACTION TO KISSINGER PROPOSALS, AND PRAVDA COMMENTARY WAS READ AS IMPLICIT

CONFIRMATION MOSCOW SEES SCHLESINGER WARNING THAT UNLESS SOVIET UNION IS PREPARED TO SLOW ITS RAPID BUILDUP OF OFFENSIVE MISSILES U.S. WILL RETURN TO A FINANCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL RACE TO PREVENT MOSCOW FROM SURPASSING AMERICAN ABILITIES.

3A. MONDAY WASHPOST FRONTPAGED KAISER'S MOSCOW REPORT THAT SOVIET UNION MADE ITS FIRST SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENT ON SALT SINCE KISSINGER VISIT AND IMPLICITLY BLAMED AMERICAN HARDLINERS FOR HINDERING SALT NEGOTIATIONS. KAISER REPORTS THAT--THOUGH CRITICAL OF SEVERAL SENATORS AND SCHLESINGER--SOVIET STATEMENT REPEATED CONVICTION THAT THESE SALT NEGOTIATIONS CAN LEAD TO CONSTRUCTIVE RESULTS IF BOTH SIDES HAVE A REAL DESIRE TO AGREE, KAISER ADDING THAT THE IMPLICIT THEME OF THE ARTICLE WAS THAT SOVIET UNION FAVORS NEW ARMS CONTROLS BUT SOME INFLUENTIAL AMERICANS OPPOSE THEM, BUT GIVING NO DETAILS OF SOVIET POSITION ON CURRENT PHASE OF SALT TWO. WHILE ARTICLE NOTED THAT POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING THE TALKS WAS

MORE FAVORABLE THAN AT LAST ROUND, IT SAID ISSUES IN SALT TWO ARE MORE COMPLICATED BECAUSE DEALING WITH QUALITY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. KAISER REPORTS THAT ARTICLE CLAIMS BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE TALKS HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON, BUT KAISER ADDS THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS SPEAK OF THE NEED FOR A CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH. ACCORDING KAISER, PRAVDA ARTICLE WAS A FRANK STATEMENT OF THE CONCERN SCHLESINGER HAS EVIDENTLY CAUSED IN MOSCOW WITH HIS STATEMENTS ON RETARGETING AND MAKING U.S. STRATEGIC POSTURE MORE FLEXIBLE; THESE STATEMENTS WERE SAID TO VIOLATE AT LEAST THE SPIRIT OF THE SOVIET-AMERICAN AGREEMENT TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR.

3B. BALTSUN INSIDE HAS MOSCOW AP STRESSING PRAVDA SAID  
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SALT PROGRESS HAS BEEN FACILITATED BECAUSE BASIC PRINCIPLES HAVE BEEN AGREED ON BY SOVIET UNION AND U.S., PRAVDA ADDING THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS CAN DRAW ON A FUND OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING THAT HAS BEEN ACCUMULATED IN THE QUEST FOR MUTUAL LIMITATIONS ON SOVIET AND AMERICAN STRATEGIC ARSENALS, AND ALSO NOTING MORE FAVORABLE PRESENT POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE. AP ADDS KISSINGER HAD HOPED FOR CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH ON HIS VISIT, WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY INCLUDE AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES, BUT HE LEFT MOSCOW UNSATISFIED, SAYING SOVIETS HAD MADE UNACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS. AP ALSO ADDS COL. LARIANOV ATTACKED AMERICAN OPPONENTS OF AN ARMS AGREEMENT WHO HOPE FOR U.S. STRATEGIC SUPERIORITY.

4. SALT COMMENT. NYTIMES OP-ED PAGE HAS ESSAY BY  
SAFIRE SAYING PARADOXICALLY NIXON WOULD HAVE MORE TO

GAIN BY NOT SECURING A SALT AGREEMENT ON HIS MOSCOW TRIP, THEREBY SOLIDIFYING CONSERVATIVE SUPPORT TO PRECLUDE IMPEACHMENT. SAFIRE SAYS IF NIXON FAILS TO SECURE AGREEMENT, HE WILL SURVIVE AS PRESIDENT; IF HE SUCCEEDS HE WILL BE HAILED AS GREATEST PEACEMAKER OF HIS TIME.

4A. SUNDAY WASHSTAR ROWAN COLUMN IS HEADED: WE CAN'T AFFORD ARMS TALKS DELAYS, ROWAN SAYING MANY AMERICANS HOLD IT WOULD BE ACT OF STATESMANSHIP FOR NIXON TO AVOID ARMS NEGOTIATIONS WITH BREZHNEV UNTIL HE IS FREE OF WATERGATE, AND CONSERVATIVES EXPRESS FEAR HE MIGHT MAKE DANGEROUS CONCESSIONS FOR SAKE OF AGREEMENT. ROWAN SAYS CURBING WASTE OF EARTH'S PRECIOUS RESOURCES IN ARMS RACE IS TOO VITAL TO POSTPONE UNTIL 1977 AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENT INCLUDES SO MANY RIVAL BUREAUCRATS PRESIDENT COULDN'T MAKE A RASHLY FOOLISH DEAL.

5. PRESIDENT'S TRIP. SUNDAY WASHSTAR, PARIS, AP REPORTED NIXON MET SATURDAY WITH WEST EUROPEAN LEADERS POHER, WILSON, BRANDT, AND HARTLING AND STRESSED NEED FOR STRONGER COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION WITHIN ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

DISCUSSIONS ALSO TOUCHED ON STATUS OF SALT NEGOTIATIONS AND PROSPECT OF EAST-WEST TROOP REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE, ACCORDING INFORMED SOURCES.

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5A. MONDAY BALTSUN, PARIS, LEWTHWAITE REPORTS NIXON TURNED PARIS TRIP FROM SAD OCCASION INTO DIPLOMATIC ACHIEVEMENT. HIS CONTACTS THERE OPENED POSSIBILITY OF RESLATED EUROPEAN SUMMIT MEETING, HARDENED DATE OF NEXT TRIP TO MOSCOW FOR NEXT JUNE AND GAVE HIM CHANCE TO ACCESS INTERNATIONAL MOOD.

5B. MONDAY NYTIMES REPORTS FROM NEWS DISPATCHES SAY NIXON RETURNED TO U.S. FROM PARIS EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE AFTER MEETING WITH PODGORNÝ THAT HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW IN JUNE WILL PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS. HAIG SAID NIXON VISIT WITH PODGORNÝ PRODUCED GREAT PROGRESS ON MATTER OF NUCLEAR ARMS LIMITATIONS, ADDING THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE POSITIVE RESULTS IN SALT. HAIG AND ZIEGLER DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER NIXON TRIP TO WESTERN EUROPE BEFORE MOSCOW SUMMIT, PROVIDED THERE IS SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING NEW COOPERATION AND IMPROVED CONSULTATIONS WITHIN ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

6. PERSONNEL. FRIDAY WASHSTAR O'LEARY REPORTED SEYMOUR WEISS MAY BE SLATED TO FILL PENTAGON VACANCY FOR HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, BUT SATURDAY WASHSTAR

O'LEARY TOOK IT ALL BACK, REPORTING WEISS IS BEING REPLACED  
BECAUSE OF OPEN POLICY DISAGREEMENTS WITH KISSINGER OVER  
SALT AND TROOP-REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS, O'LEARY CITING  
AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES, AND ADDING A CONGRESSIONAL SOURCE  
SAID KISSINGER DOESN'T LIKE HIS PEOPLE TO DISAGREE WITH  
HIM AND WEISS SPOKE UP AT STAFF MEETINGS AND OPPOSED  
SECRETARY'S IDEAS OF HOW MUCH U.S. SHOULD CONCEDE ON  
STRATEGIC ARMS AND MBFR. O'LEARY CITES SOURCES CLOSE  
TO WHITE HOUSE AND SENATE SAYI  
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